

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for recording evidence of consent to a transaction involving a relying party and an affirming party, the consent being recorded by a voice recording system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a transaction identifier to the relying party to the transaction, the transaction identifier being transmitted by the relying party to the affirming party, the transaction identifier corresponding to the transaction;
 - receiving the transaction identifier from the affirming party after establishing electronic communications between the affirming party and the voice recording system;
 - receiving a voice message from the affirming party, the voice message indicating that the affirming party assents to the transaction;
 - recording and storing the voice message at the voice recording system;
 - generating a recording identifier associated with the recorded voice message;and
 - communicating the recording identifier to the relying party.
2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving the recording identifier and, in response to said receipt, providing the recorded voice message.
3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the transaction identifier to the relying party further comprises providing the transaction identifier to the relying party via a telephone network.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the transaction identifier to the relying party further comprises providing the transaction identifier

to the relying party via a computer network.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving a voice message from the affirming party further comprises receiving the voice message from the affirming party via a telephone network.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving a voice message from the affirming party further comprises receiving the voice message from the affirming party via a computer network.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the relying party communicates the transaction identifier to the affirming party via an electronic message.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of authenticating the affirming party using biometric information provided by the affirming party.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the transaction identifier is communicated from the relying party to the affirming party by a paper document.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the transaction identifier is communicated from the relying party to the affirming party in an Internet message.

11-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) A method for obtaining evidence of consent to a transaction involving a relying party and an affirming party, the method comprising the steps of:
the relying party associating a transaction identifier with the transaction;
providing the transaction identifier to the affirming party;
the relying party receiving a recording identifier from a voice storage system, receipt of the recording identifier indicating that the affirming party assented to the transaction by providing a voice message that has been recorded by the voice storage system, the recording

identifier associated with the recorded voice message.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein the transaction identifier is received at a relying party communications device from the voice storage system.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for gathering evidence of assent to a proposition, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning an identifier to the proposition, the identifier associating a party with the proposition;

communicating the identifier to the party to enable the party to record a spoken declaration of assent to the proposition; and

upon making the recorded spoken declaration, receiving notification that the recording has been completed.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the recording is initiated by receipt of the identifier by a recording system from the party.

21. (Withdrawn) A system for recording consent to a transaction involving a relying party and an affirming party, the system comprising:

means for providing a transaction identifier to the relying party to the transaction, the transaction identifier corresponding to the transaction;

means for receiving a voice message from the affirming party, after receipt of the transaction identifier from the affirming party, the voice message indicating that the affirming party assents to the transaction;

means for recording the voice message;

means for storing the voice message; and

means for providing a recording identifier to the relying party, the recording identifier associated with the recorded voice message.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for recording a solemn declaration, the method comprising:

receiving a transaction identifier at a recording system from a relying party via a first communications network, the transaction identifier identifying a transaction requiring a declaration from an affirming party;

associating the transaction identifier with the relying party at the recording system;
subsequently, receiving [[a]] the ~~declaration~~ transaction identifier at [[a]] the
recording system from an ~~the~~ affirming party, ~~the declaration identifier corresponding to the~~
declaration;

receiving a voice message at the recording system from the affirming party via a
second communications network, the voice message including a statement of the ~~solemn~~
declaration required from the affirming party, thereby providing an indication of completion of
the transaction ~~corresponding to the declaration identifier;~~

recording and storing the voice message at the recording system; and
associating a recording identifier with the recorded voice message;
communicating the transaction identifier together with the recording identifier to the
relying party via a third communications network in response to the indication of the completion
of the transaction; and

communicating the recording identifier to the affirming party via a fourth communications
network in response to the indication of the completion of the transaction.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 22 further comprising
communicating the declaration identifier from the ~~recording system to a~~ relying party to the
affirming party[[,]] prior to receiving the declaration identifier at the recording system from
the affirming party.

24. (Withdrawn) A method for entering into a contract comprising the steps of:
a party receiving a contract and instructions how to signify agreement to the contract,
including instructions as to how to establish communications with a recording system;
establishing communications between the party to the contract and the recording
system;
communicating a transaction identifier to the recording system;
in response to a prompt from the recording system, communicating a spoken

declaration to indicate assent to the contract.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of receiving a recording identifier from the recording system.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of providing the recording identifier to the party to the contract.

27. (Withdrawn) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for recording evidence of consent to a transaction involving a relying party and an affirming party, the consent being recorded by a voice recording system, by performing the steps of:

providing a transaction identifier to the relying party to the transaction, the transaction identifier being transmitted by the relying party to the affirming party, the transaction identifier corresponding to the transaction;

receiving the transaction identifier from the affirming party after establishing electronic communications between the affirming party and the voice recording system;

receiving a voice message from the affirming party, the voice message indicating that the affirming party assents to the transaction;

recording and storing the voice message at the voice recording system;

generating a recording identifier associated with the recorded voice message; and communicating the recording identifier to the relying party.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing computer executable instructions for recording consent to a transaction using a voice recording system ~~and a transaction identifier corresponding to the transaction, the transaction involving a relying party and an affirming party,~~ said executable instructions comprising:

receiving the a transaction identifier at the voice recording system from a relying party via a first communications network, the transaction identifier identifying a transaction requiring a declaration from an affirming party corresponding to the transaction from the affirming party after establishing communications between the affirming party and the voice recording system;
associating the transaction identifier with the relying party at the voice recording system;

subsequently, receiving the transaction identifier at the voice recording system from the affirming party;

recording receiving a voice message at the voice recording system received from the affirming party via a second communications network, the voice message including a statement of the declaration required from the affirming party, thereby providing an indication of completion of the transaction, the voice message indicating that the affirming party assents to the transaction corresponding to the transaction identifier;

recording and storing the voice message in at the voice recording system; and associating a recording identifier with the recorded voice message; communicating the transaction identifier together with the recording identifier to the relying party via a third communications network in response to the indication of the completion of the transaction; and

communicating the recording identifier to the affirming party via a fourth communications network in response to the indication of the completion of the transaction.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the first communications network, the second communications network, the third communications network, and the fourth communications network are the same communications network.

31. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the second communications network is a telecommunications network and wherein the first communications network, the third communications network, and the fourth communications network are different networks than the second communications network.

32. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the first communications network and the third communications network are the same network and wherein the second communications network and the fourth communications network are the same network.

33. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

receiving the recording identifier at the recording system after the completion of the transaction; and

providing the recorded voice message in response to receiving the recording identifier.

34. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the transaction identifier is communicated by the relying party to the affirming party via a paper document.

35. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the transaction identifier is received at the recording system from the affirming party via a fifth communications network.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the second communications network and the fifth communications network are the same network.

37. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the first communications network, the second communications network, the third communications network, and the fourth communications network are the same communications network.

38. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the second communications network is a telecommunications network and wherein the first communications network, the third communications network, and the fourth communications network are different networks than the second communications network.

39. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the first communications network and the third communications network are the same network and wherein the second communications network and the fourth communications network are the same network.

40. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 28, said executable instructions further comprising:

receiving the recording identifier at the recording system after the completion of

the transaction; and

providing the recorded voice message in response to receiving the recording identifier.

41. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the transaction identifier is communicated by the relying party to the affirming party via a paper document.

42. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the transaction identifier is received at the recording system from the affirming party via a fifth communications network.

43. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 42, wherein the second communications network and the fifth communications network are the same network.